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SERVICE DATE – DECEMBER 18, 2015

DO

FR-4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 751X)]

CSX Transportation, Inc.—Discontinuance of Service Exemption—in Bell and Harlan Counties, Ky.

CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. pt. 1152 subpart F—Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Service to discontinue service over an approximately seven-mile rail line on CSXT's Southern Region, Huntington Division, CV Subdivision, Engineering Appalachian Division, also known as the Pucketts Creek Branch between milepost OPC 223.0 and milepost OPC 230.0 in Bell and Harlan Counties, Ky. (the Line). The Line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 40845, 40856, and 40863, and includes two stations, Alva (FSAC 43932/OPSL 19940) at milepost OPC 223.0 and Piedmont (FSAC 43931/OPSL 19930) at milepost OPC 230.0.

CSXT has certified that: (1) no local traffic has moved over the Line for at least two years; (2) because the Line is not a through line, no overhead traffic needs to be rerouted over other lines; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the Line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the Line is pending either with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) or with any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant

within the two-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.12 (newspaper publication) and 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the discontinuance of service shall be protected under Oregon Short Line Railroad—Abandonment Portion Goshen Branch Between Firth & Ammon, in Bingham & Bonneville Counties, Idaho, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. § 10502(d) must be filed.

Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) to subsidize continued rail service has been received, this exemption will be effective on January 19, 2016, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues and formal expressions of intent to file an OFA to subsidize continued rail service under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.27(c)(2)¹ must be filed by December 28, 2015.² Petitions to reopen must be filed by January 7, 2016, with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

¹ Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which is currently set at \$1,600. See 49 C.F.R. § 1002.2(f)(25).

² Because this is a discontinue proceeding and not an abandonment, interim trail use/rail banking and public use conditions are not appropriate. Because there will be environmental review during abandonment, this discontinuance does not require an environmental review.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to CSXT's representative: Louis E. Gitomer, Law Offices of Louis E. Gitomer, LLC, 600 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 301, Towson, MD 21204.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at
“WWW.STB.DOT.GOV.”

Decided: December 15, 2015.

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell, Director, Office of Proceedings.